

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We thank you for your prompt approval of Puerto Rico's major disaster declaration for Hurricane Fiona, in addition to approving a 30-day one-hundred percent cost share waiver for the island. This waiver will greatly assist entities and communities on the ground to address immediate relief and rescue efforts. However, we are concerned a 30-day waiver alone will not be enough to fully assist Puerto Rico. We request that you grant FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Categories C through G to all municipalities that need assistance and approve a 100% federal cost share for all PA work beyond the current 30-day approval.

If this assistance is approved, Puerto Rico will have all the eligible FEMA resources available to respond effectively post-hurricane Fiona. The island has faced catastrophic flooding and rainfall, and category one winds over one hundred miles per hour. The devastation goes beyond the hurricane's direct impact; over three million residents across the entire island were without power for over twenty-four hours, and to this day over 100,000 customers remain without electric service. At least 21 lives have been lost because of the disaster.<sup>1</sup> We thank you for granting FEMA Public Assistance Categories C through G to several municipalities, and urge an extension of the one-hundred percent cost share waiver for these categories would help ensure Puerto Rico's restoration of indispensable infrastructure happens without delay.

Five years since Hurricane Maria, LUMA Energy and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) have yet to adequately repair the electrical system, resulting in continued frequent and widespread electrical outages. These events have left Puerto Rico's critical infrastructure and communities vulnerable to extreme weather. FEMA PA Categories C through G will unlock necessary federal assistance to permanently repair schools, railways, ports, and water control facilities to withstand future natural disasters.

With the approval of a 100% cost share for all Public Assistance work beyond the current 30-day approval is critical to a swift and equitable recovery of Puerto Rico. We appreciate your consideration of the request.

Sincerely,

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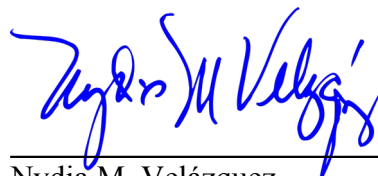
<sup>1</sup> El Nuevo Día, "Aumentan a 21 las muertes asociadas al huracán Fiona," El Nuevo Día, September 27, 2022, <https://www.elnuevodia.com/noticias/locales/notas/aumentan-a-21-las-muertes-asociadas-al-huracan-fiona/>

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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



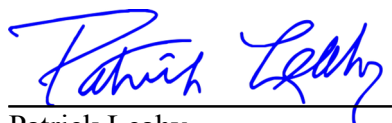
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



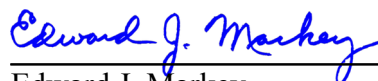
Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



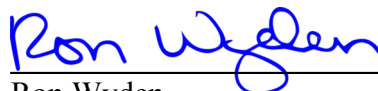
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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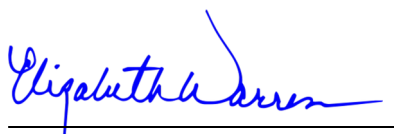
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



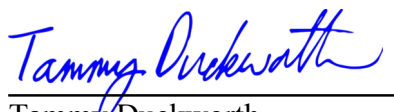
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



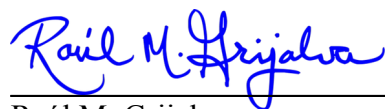
Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress